Pre-1986 pension revision cases in Railways

3643. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3141, given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the number of cases of pre-1986 revision of pensions, stated to be cleared, include the Pension Account No. 05083985(05) also;

(b) if so, what is its final disposal and whether the concerned person has been informed;

(c) if not, what is the fate of the above case, stating the reasons for not including the same in the number of disposed cases and showing a nil figure of pending cases; and

(d) the details of such other left out cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Unauthorised rail reservation by agents

† 3644. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Officers have informed about the cases of unauthorised reservations, primarily by touts and agents, at railway stations in major metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected by Government during the last two years, particularly between March to June, 2001; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Cases of touts and unscrupulous elements indulging in unauthorised reservations come to notice from time to time. In order to curb this menace, regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments in association with the police both in and around reservation offices at all important stations. Besides, during peak rush periods, monitoring at important locations is stepped up. Consequent upon these checks, the number of persons apprehended were as under:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Period	*No. of persons apprehended*
April, 1999 to March, 2000	3112
April, 2000 to March, 2001	2719
March-June, 2001	836

Action is taken against the persons apprehended under the relevant provisions of the law.

Reduction in stoppage of Shatabdi Express at Chandigarh

3645. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main passenger traffic of Shatabdi Express Train is being dealt with at Chandigarh Railway Station; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for reducing stoppage timings of the above train, from 22 minutes to eight minutes at this Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The major share of the passenger traffic for the two Shatabdi Express trains *i.e.* 2011/2012 New Delhi-Chandigarh-New Delhi and 2005/2006 New Delhi-Kalka-New Delhi is handled at Chandigarh Railway Station.

(b) The stoppage time of Shatabdi Express was curtailed to 8 minutes to reduce the overall running time.

Palace on Wheels train in Karnataka

3646. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the palace on wheels trains is to be launched in Karnataka shortly;

(b) if so, the places to be covered and the approximate cost per ticket; and

(c) by when it would be started;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) A proposal to launch a Palace on Wheels type train in Karnataka has been received from the State Government of Karnataka. Various inputs requested by the State Government have been furnished for working out the modalities and their reply is awaited.